Agreement with World Bank on Solar Energy

744. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:

SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have entered into any agreement with the World Bank for promotion of solar energy in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the World Bank has imposed a condition that the agreement is liable to be cancelled if the solar energy produced is not used in the rural sector; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of India have entered into agreement with the World Bank for providing an assistance of US $ 115 million as IDA credit and US $ 26 million as grant under GEF, for the implementation of the Indian Renewable Resources Development Project (RRD), being implemented by Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA), which came into effect from April 6, 1993. The IRRD Project envisages in addition to the World Bank assistance of US $ 141 million, a grant of US $ 4 million from Swiss Development Corporation and US $ 50 million as mixed credit from Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA). The objectives of the Project are to: (i) Promote commercialization of renewable resources technologies; (ii) create marketing and financing mechanism for the sale and delivery of alternate energy systems; (iii) institute a framework for encouraging private sector investments in small-scale power generation; and (iv) promote environmentally sound investments to preserve forest resources. The Project has three components; namely, small hydro schemes, solar photovoltaics and wind farm development.

Under the project, assistance of US $ 30 million as IDA credit and US dollar 10 million from GEF and US dollar 2 milion from Swiss Deveopment Cooperation as grant have been provided for the promotion of solar photovoltaic technology in the country.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The question does not arise.

Mini-hydel projects in Darjeeling

745. SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Goverment have decided to set up Mini-hydel Projects in the hill areas of Darjeeling in West Bengal;

(b) if so, how many of these projects have been started; and

(c) what is the time-frame of their completion and commissioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) (a) and (b) Three Small Hydro Electric Project (SHP) are being set up by the Government of West Bengal in the hill areas of Darjeeling in West Bengal.

(c) One SHP project at Ronigmoch & Cedars (4x125 KW) is likely to be commissioned during 1995.96 and the remaining two projects at Mungpoo Rambhi Khola (4x500 KW) and Mungpoo kali khola (4x750 KW) are expected to be commissioned in 1997-98.